

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 are amended and a substitute specification is submitted.

In particular, claims 1-3 are amended solely to remove typographical errors to ensure the claim terminology is completely consistent and to use an indefinite article instead of the definite article for the first instance of all claim features. The amendments to claims 1-3 are not made for any substantial reason related to patentability, nor do these amendments in any way narrow the scope of any claim relative to the scope that the claim would have been accorded without the amendments.

The substitute specification is identical to the original specification filed on February 19, 2002. The substitute specification is the document of which the originally filed specification is a facsimile copy. Thus, no new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification. A substitute specification is submitted. The substitute specification is legible with lines that are one and one-half or double spaced. Thus, the substitute specification satisfies the paper requirement under MPEP §608.01.

In particular, the last line of paragraph [0019] in the substitute specification, which corresponds to the last line on page 5 of the originally filed specification, is now legible. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection of the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 4,819,987 to Stringer. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Stringer discloses all elements recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Stringer does not disclose or suggest a strain gauge for detecting, during an inclining movement, a force that acts on the frame in a direction opposite to a direction of the inclining movement, as recited in claim 1.

Stringer discloses an actuation assembly 30 which changes the footrest 20 of a seat 15 between an extended position and a stowed position. See Figs. 1 and 2, col. 1, lines 13-17 and col. 2, lines 13-17. Stringer discloses that the actuation assembly 30 includes a pressure relief system which permits retraction of the footrest 20 when a predetermined load is applied on the footrest 20 toward the stowed position without actuating the control button. See col. 3, lines 1-5. Stringer discloses actuating the retraction movement when the seat rests at the extended position, but does not disclose or suggest detecting a force during an inclining movement, much less detecting a force opposite to the direction of the inclining movement during the inclining movement. Therefore, Stringer does not disclose or suggest a string gauge for detecting, during an inclining movement, a force that acts on the frame in a direction opposite to a direction of the inclining movement, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Stringer does not disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claim 1, and claims 2-4 depending therefrom. Thus, Stringer does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-4. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/sqb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

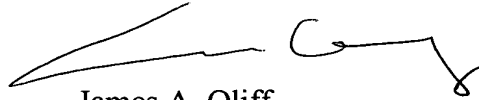
Date: August 5, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/sqb

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Substitute Specification

Date: August 5, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
